



Four Lakes Scuba Club Newsletter

Volume 34

Issue 2

March 2022

This Month's Meeting

Wednesday, March 9th 7:30 PM

Hop Haus (Fitchburg Location) - 2975 Sub-Zero Parkway, Fitchburg, WI 53719

Speaker: Tamara Thomsen

Tamara Thomsen is a Maritime Archaeologist with Wisconsin Historical Society's Maritime Preservation and Archaeology program. Her research has resulted in the listing of fifty-eight submerged sites to the National Register of Historic Places. She has received awards from the Association for Great Lakes Maritime History, the Great Lakes Shipwreck Preservation Society, and in 2014, she was inducted into the Women Diver's Hall of Fame. Tamara is owner of Diversions Scuba where she is an active cave, rebreather, and technical diving instructor. She has worked as a photographer, researcher, and research diver on projects including the USS Monitor with NOAA National Marine Sanctuaries, and RMS Titanic with Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. And...she is a proud member of the Four Lakes Scuba Club.

Topic: A Behind the Scenes Look at the Recovery of a 1200 Year Old Canoe

Join Tamara for a behind the scenes look at the recent discovery and raising of a Late Woodland dugout canoe from Lake Mendota. She'll share the latest results of work on the canoe that made global headlines. Join us for this special presentation!

February Meeting Recap

By Ellen Evans

Our February speaker was Antonia Gascoyne, UW grad student in water resource management. Her plans are to be involved with water management initiatives in New York.

She spoke about flooding in the Lake Wingra water shed. Here are the highlights.

Lake Wingra watershed is the ancestral lands of the Ho Chunk. There are many effigy mounds in the area. At that time Lake Wingra was crystal clear and wild rice grew there. It is spring fed. Wetlands were filled in. Roads, sidewalks and buildings were built. Half the springs have dried up due to this. Run off high in nitrogen and particulates replaces the water. Wingra creek was dredged increasing flow. All of this has caused dramatic changes in the system. Some solutions include retention ponds, green roofs, urban tree canopy, downspout disconnection, rain barrels and rain gardens. Antonia's project is on the effectiveness of rain gardens. Rain garden plants have deeper roots than lawn grass. Allowing water to soak in instead of running off. Barriers to more rain gardens include community knowledge, homeowner concerns about costs and aesthetics. There are resources to learn more about putting in a rain garden and maintaining

(Continued on page 2)

Trip Report: Belize

By Nikki Acker

In February Brad and I went to Belize and Costa Rica. It was our first big trip since Covid started and I was excited to get back in the water and get some new stamps in my passport.



Belize required a negative Covid test taken within 72 hours prior to entry to the country. As we had heard of difficulties with getting tests in Dane County, we opted for a test from a private lab. We did have to pay for the test, but we received our results very quickly and without any issues.

(Continued on page 2)

it. In some cases, there is some assistance with cost. UW arboretum and Olbrich have native plant sales. Search for Plant Dane to order half price plants and for more information. Search for Roger Bannerman Rain Garden Initiative for instructions and if your home is affected by road construction, to apply for the city’s terrace rain garden program. Dane County offers a workshop, and you can apply for free plants for school and community projects.

Thank you, Antonia for your presentation. Maybe someday Lake Wingra will be clearer, and we will dive there again.

Four Lakes Scuba Club Officers

- President: Brad Acker
president@fourlakesscubaclub.org
- Vice President: Ellen Evans
vp@fourlakesscubaclub.org
- Secretary: Nikki Acker
news@fourlakesscubaclub.org
- Treasurer: Mary Stroud
treasurer@fourlakesscubaclub.org
- Dive Safety Officer: Gayle Orner
safety@fourlakesscubaclub.org
- Social Media Editor: Lisa Vorburger
media@fourlakesscubaclub.org
- Webmaster: Brad Acker
webmaster@fourlakesscubaclub.org



After we landed in Belize City, we had a chilly, rainy, and very rough two hour boat ride to our destination on Long Caye. The waves were higher than our boat at times, and everyone was pretty nervous, but our captain Jose navigated us through the ocean safely.

We stayed at Huracan Diving Lodge, which only has four rooms and is very remote. There are no stores, no roads, and hardly any other buildings on the whole island. The lodge itself isn’t fancy, with compost toilets, rainwater showers, and primarily solar power, so there’s no A/C or hair dryers. All of the staff members were very friendly and helpful. The food was delicious with a good variety of dishes. The chef, Benji, was an adorable 23 year old who got his recipes from Pinterest and sang in the kitchen while he cooked.

The diving was very good. We saw many sharks, turtles, spotted eagle rays, and large schools of fish. The coral seemed fairly healthy as well. Long Caye is very close to the Blue Hole, so we had this famous dive site all to ourselves. We went down to see the stalactites in the Blue Hole and then came right back up. Nobody in our group had any problems and it was a very cool experience.

We also got a chance to try spearfishing lionfish. Brad was very successful and nailed one on his first try! I was not as skilled of a lionfish hunter—luckily, we weren’t relying on me for dinner! We brought our bounty back and Benji made it into sashimi that night. So good!

Overall I would recommend diving in Belize and staying at Huracan. It’s definitely not a luxurious resort, but its proximity to all the dive sites and friendly staff made it a good base for diving.